

Serial No.: 10/751,700

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:
 - a. a chute flap ~~for connection~~ attached to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being selectively movable between a closed chute flap position and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap provides a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and
 - b. a retaining flap ~~for connection~~ attached to the housing of the mowing machine, the retaining flap being selectively movable independent of the chute flap between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the retaining flap can in its retaining position provide support to maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position.
2. (Currently Amended) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap is pivotally ~~connected~~ attached to the housing.
3. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap is biased toward either its open chute flap position or its closed chute flap position.

Serial No.: 10/751,700

4. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap further comprises a flange portion and a wall portion.
5. (Currently Amended) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap is pivotally ~~connected~~ attached to the housing.
6. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap is biased toward its retaining position.
7. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap further comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being adapted for securing the chute flap in its closed chute flap position.
8. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about different axes.
9. (Currently Amended) A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:
 - a. a chute flap ~~for connection~~ attached to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being selectively movable between a closed chute flap position wherein the chute flap can provide a portion of the housing and

Serial No.: 10/751,700

- an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap can provide a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and
- b. a retaining flap ~~for connection~~ attached to the housing of the mowing machine, the retaining flap being selectively movable independent of the chute flap between a retaining position and a non-retaining position ~~wherein the retaining flap can in its retaining position provide support to maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position, at least a portion of the retaining flap being adapted for overlapping at least a portion of the chute flap when the chute flap is in its closed chute flap position.~~
10. (Currently Amended) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap is pivotally ~~connected~~ attached to the housing.
11. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap is biased toward either its open chute flap position or its closed chute flap position.
12. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap further comprises a flange portion and a wall portion.

Serial No.: 10/751,700

13. (Currently Amended) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap is pivotally ~~connected~~ attached to the housing.
14. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap is biased toward its retaining position.
15. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap further comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being adapted for securing the chute flap in its closed chute flap position.
16. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about different axes.
17. (Currently Amended) A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:
 - a. a chute flap ~~for connection~~ attached to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being selectively movable between a closed chute flap position and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap provides a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and
 - b. a retaining flap ~~for connection~~ having a first section pivotally attached to the housing of the mowing machine and a second section disposed at

Serial No.: 10/751,700

least generally perpendicularly to the first section, the retaining flap being selectively movable between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the second section of the retaining flap can in its retaining position is adapted to overlap at least a portion of the chute flap to maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position; and

~~e. wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about substantially perpendicular axes.~~

18. (Original) A method for moving a chute apparatus of a mowing machine, the method comprising:
 - a. Lifting a retaining flap on a mowing machine from a retaining position to a non-retaining position to allow a chute flap attached to the mowing machine to move from a closed position to an open position whereby the chute flap provides a discharge chute.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising returning the retaining flap to the retaining position where the retaining flap provides support to maintain the chute flap in the open chute flap position.
20. (Original) A method for moving a chute apparatus of a mowing machine, the method comprising:

Serial No.: 10/751,700

- a. lifting a retaining flap on a mowing machine from a retaining position to a non-retaining position by pivoting the retaining flap along a first axis to allow a chute flap attached to the mowing machine to pivot along a second axis from a closed position to an open position whereby the chute flap provides a discharge chute; and
 - b. wherein the first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to one another.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising returning the retaining flap to the retaining position where the retaining flap provides support to maintain the chute flap in the open chute flap position.
22. (New) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about substantially perpendicular axes.

Serial No.: 10/751,700

New Claim

New claim 22 has been added and is a dependent claim from claim 17 reciting the subject matter which was originally presented in paragraph "c" of claim 17. The arguments set forth above with respect to claim 17 apply here as well. Additionally, Mallaney fails to teach or suggest a chute flap and retaining flap both rotatable about substantially perpendicular axes. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is allowable over the art of record. No new matter has been added.